

Message Text

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ORIGIN SP-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN, US

SUBJECT: PERIODIC ACTIVITIES REPORT JUNE 24-JULY 13.

1. AMBASSADOR'S AUTHORITY. STATE AND DEFENSE HAVE AGREED AT HIGH LEVEL ON LANGUAGE CONCERNING THE AMBASSADOR'S AUTHORITY TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE TREATY IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION AND OMB IS NOW SUBMITTING THE DRAFT LEGISLATION TO THE PRESIDENT FOR APPROVAL.

2. US-PANAMANIAN CORRESPONDENCE. A) GENERAL TORRIJOS WROTE RECENTLY TO THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING PANAMA'S CONTINUED ACCESS TO CONCESSIONAL FUNDING FROM FSO FUNDS OF THE IADB. THE ISSUE AROSE AT THE LATE JUNE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING AT WHICH THE US REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSED REPLACING THE PRESENT CATEGORIZATION OF COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING FSO ELIGIBILITY WITH ONE BASED ON PER CAPITA INCOME AS PERHAPS THE MOST OBJECTIVE DETERMI-
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NANT OF A COUNTRY'S NEED FOR CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE. THE BANK HAS BEEN ASKED TO PREPARE A STUDY ON THE SUBJECT. A RESPONSE TO TORRIJOS WILL BE SENT ONCE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STATE AND TREASURY HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT. STATE'S POSITION IS THAT PER CAPITA INCOME MAY BE ONLY ONE

CRITERION AMONG OTHERS AND WE SEEK A FORMULA WHICH WOULD

ALLOW SOME ACCESS TO FSO LENDING FOR PANAMA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. THE LETTER AND REPLY WILL BE POUCHED WHEN THESE DIFFERING POSITIONS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. B) FONMIN GONZALEZ REVILLA WROTE DIRECTLY TO PASTOR ON THE BELIZE ISSUE. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LETTER BUT UNDERSTAND IT REPRESENTS A RESTATEMENT OF PANAMA'S POSITION.

3. CONTAINER PORT. STATE 175765 REPRESENTS THE RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS AMONG STATE, DEFENSE, AND NSC (PASTOR) REGARDING BARLETTA'S REQUEST TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THE COCO SOLO CONTAINER PORT BEFORE THE TREATY ENTERS INTO FORCE. ONCE THE PREPARATORY WORK IS COMPLETED, THE USG WILL RECONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF THE ISSUANCE OF A LAND LICENSE TO PANAMA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PORT CONSTRUCTION.

4. DARIEN HIGHWAY. THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON JULY 13 VOTED DOWN DOT'S FY 78 SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST OF \$20 MILLION. THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE REQUEST DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING JULY 24. CHRISTOPHER

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